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His Majesties GRACIOUS SPEECH TO THE LORDS & COMMONS, Together with the Lord CHANCELLORS,

At the opening of the PARLIAMENT, On the 8th day of *May*, 1661.

LONDON,
Printed by *John Bill* and *Christopher Barker*, Printers to the Kings most Excellent Majesty, 1661.

At the Kings Printing-house in *Black-friers*.

CUM PRIVILEGIO.

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My Lords, and Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

Will not spend the time in telling you why I called you hither; I am sure I am very glad to see you here; I do value my self much upon keeping my Word, upon making good whatsoever I promise to my Subjects: And I well remember when I was last in this place, I promised that I would call a Parliament as soon as could be reasonably expected or desired; and truly, considering the season of the year, and all that hath been done since we parted, you could not reasonably expect to meet sooner then now we do: If it might have been a week sooner, you will confess there was some reason to defer it to this day; for this day, we may without superstition love one day, prefer one day before another, for the memory of some blessing that befell us that day, and then you will not wonder that the memory of the great affection the whole Kingdom shewed to me this day Twelve-moneth, made me desirous to meet you a-

gain this day, when I dare ſwear you are full of the ſame ſpirit, and that it will be laſting in you; I think there are not many of you who are not particularly known to me; there are very few of whom I have not heard ſo much good, that I am as ſure as I can be of any thing that is to come, that you will all concur with me, and that I ſhall concur with you in all things which may advance the Peace, Plenty, and Proſperity of the Nation, I ſhall be exceedingly deceived elſe.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

You will finde what method I think beſt for your proceeding, by two Bills which I have cauſed to be prepared for you, which are for confirmation of all that was Enacted at our laſt meeting: And above all, I muſt repeat what I ſaid when I was laſt here.

That, next to the miraculous bleſsing of God Almighty, and indeed, as an immediate effect of that bleſsing, I do impute the good diſpoſition and ſecurity we are all in, to the happy Act of Indempnity and Oblivion; that is the principal Corner-ſtone which ſupports this excellent Building, that creates kindneſs in us to each other, and confidence is our joynt and common ſecurity.

I am ſure I am ſtill of the ſame opinion, and more, if it be poſſible, of that opinion, then I was, by the experience I have of the benefit of it, and from the unreaſonableneſs of what ſome men ſay againſt

against it; though I assure you not in my hearing. In Gods name provide full Remedies for any future Mischiefs, be as severe as you will against new Offenders, especially if they be so upon old Principles, and pull up those Principles by the Roots: But I shall never think him a wise man, who would endeavor to undermine or shake that Foundation of Our Publick Peace, by infringing that Act in the least degree; or that he can be My friend, or wish Me well, who would perswade Me ever to consent to the breach of a Promise I so solemnly made when I was abroad, and performed with that solemnity; because, and after I promised it, I cannot suspect any attempts of that kinde by any men of Merit and Vertue.

I will not conclude without telling you some News; news, that I think will be very acceptable to you; and therefore I should think my self unkinde and ill-natured, if I should not impart it to you. I have been often put in minde by My friends, that it was high time to marry; and I have thought so My Self ever since I came into England: But there appeared difficulties enough in the Choice, though many overtures have been made to Me: and if I should never marry till I could make such a Choice, against which there could be no foresight of any inconvenience that may insue, you would live to see Me an old Batchelar, which I think you do not desire to do: I can not

tell you, not onely that I am resolved to marry, but whom I resolve to marry, if God please: And towards my resolution, I have used that deliberation, and taken that advice as I ought to do in an Affair of that importance; and trust Me, with a full consideration of the good of My Subjects in general, as of My Self; it is with the Daughter of Portugal. *When I had, as well as I could, weighed all that occurred to Me, the first resolution I took, was to state the whole Overtures which had been made to Me, and in truth, all that had been said against it to My Privy Council; without hearing whose advice, I never did, nor ever will resolve any thing of Publick Importance: And I tell you with great satisfaction and comfort to my Self (that after many hours debate in a full Councel) for I think there was not above one absent; and truly I believe, upon weighing all that can be said upon that subject, for or against it, My Lords, without one dissenting Voice, yet there were very few sate silent, advised Me with all imaginable cheerfulness to this Marriage, which I looked upon as very wonderful, and even as some instance of the Approbation of God himself; and so took My Own Resolution, and concluded all with the Ambassador of* Portugal, *who is departing with a whole Treaty signed, which you will finde to contain many great advantages to the Kingdom; and I make all the haste I can, to*

fetch you a Queen hither, who I doubt not will bring great Bleſſings with Her, to Me and you. I will adde no more, but refer the reſt to the Chancellor.

(After His Majeſty had finiſhed, the Lord Chancellor ſpake as followeth.)

My Lords, and you the Knights, Citizens, and Burgeſſes, of the Houſe of Commons,

THe King hath called you hither by His Writ, to aſſiſt Him with your Information and Advice in the greateſt and weightieſt Affairs of the Kingdom: By His Writ, which is the onely good and lawfull way to the meeting of a Parliament; and the purſuing that Writ, the remembring how and why they came together, is the onely way to bring a happy end to Parliaments; there was no ſuch Writ as this, no ſuch preſence as this, in the year 1649. when this unhappy Kingdom was diſhonored and expoſed to the mirth and reproach of their Neighbors in the Government of a Commonwealth; There was no ſuch Writ as this, no ſuch Preſence as this, in *December* 1653. when that Infant-Commonwealth, when the three Kingdoms of *England*, *Scotland*, and *Ireland*, and the Dominions thereunto belonging were delive-

red

red up into the bloody and merciless hands of a devouring Protector, and sacrificed to his Lust and Appetite? There was no such Writ as this, no such Presence as this, in the year 1656. when that Protector was more solemnly invested and installed, and the liberty of the three Nations submitted to his absolute Tyranny by *The humble Petition and Advice*. When people came together by such exorbitant means, it is no wonder that their Consultations and Conclusions were so disproportioned from any Rules of Justice or Sobriety; God be thanked that he hath reserved us to this day, a day that many good men have dyed praying for, that after all those prodigies in Church and State, we have lived to see the King at the opening of the Parliament. That we have lived to see our King Anointed and Crowned by the hands of an Archbishop, as his Predecessors have been; and that we are come hither this day in Obedience to His Writ.

The King tells you, He hath caused a Bill or two to be prepared for the Confirmation of all that was Enacted in the last Parliament, and commends the dispatch of those to you, with some earnestness. The truth is, it is a great part of the business of this Parliament to celebrate the memory of the last, by confirming or re-enacting all that was done by that Parliament;

ment; which though it was not called by the King's Writ, may be reaſonably thought to have been called by God himſelf, upon the Supplication and Prayer of the King, and the whole Nation, as the onely means to reſtore the Nation to its Happineſs, to its Self, to its Honor, and even to its Innocence. How glad the King was of it, appears by what He writ to them from *Breda*, when he referred more to them then ever was referred to Parliament: He referred in truth (upon the matter) all that concerned Himſelf, all that concerned Religion, all that concerned the Peace and Happineſs of the Kingdom to them: And to their Honor be it ſpoken, and to their Honor be it ever remembred, That the King, Religion, and the Kingdom, have no reaſon to be ſorry that ſo much was intruſted to them; nor they to be aſhamed of the diſcharge of their truſt. It would have been a very unſeaſonable ſcruple in any man, who ſhould have refuſed to bear his part in the excellent tranſactions of that Parliament, becauſe he was not called thither by the King's Writ; and it would be a more unreaſonable ſcruple now, in any man, after we have all received the fruit and benefit of their Councels and Concluſions, when in truth we ow our orderly and regular meeting at this time to their extraordinary meeting then, to their wiſdom in laying

hold upon the Kings Promiſes, and to the Kings Juſtice in performing all he promiſed, and to the Kingdoms ſubmiſsion, and acquieſcence in thoſe promiſes. I ſay it would be very unſeaſonable, and unreaſonable now to endeavor to ſhake that Foundation, which if you will take the King's Judgment, ſupports the whole Fabrick of our Peace and Security. He tells you what he ſhall think of any who goes about to undermine that Foundation, which is a Zeal no Prince could be tranſported with but Himſelf; it might have ſeemed enough for a King who had received ſo many injuries, ſo hardly to be forgotten, undergone ſo many loſſes ſo impoſsible to be repaired, to have been willing to confirm, and to re-enact the *Act of Oblivion and Indempnity*, when you ſhould preſent it to Him; but to prepare ſuch an Act for you, to conjure you by all that is precious by your friendſhip to him, to diſpatch thoſe Acts with expedition; is ſuch a peece of Fatherly Tenderneſs and Piety, as could proceed from no heart, but ſuch a One, in which God hath treaſured up a ſtock of Mercy, and Juſtice, and Wiſdom, to redeem a Nation. And truly, my Lords and Gentlemen, for our ſelves, if we'll conſider how much we ow to thoſe, who with all the Faculties of their Soul contributed to, and contrived the bleſſed change, the reſtoring the King to His

People,

People, and His People to the King; and then how much we ow to those who gave no opposition to the virtuous activity of the other, (and God knows a little opposition might have done much harm) whether we look upon the Publick, or upon our own private Provocations, there will remain so few who do not deserve to be forgiven by us, that we may very well submit to the Kings Advice, and His Example; of whom we may very justly say, as a very good *Historian* said of a very great Emperor; and I am sure, it could never be so truly said of any Emperor as of ours, *Facere recte Cives suos, Princeps optimus faciendo docet; cumq; sit Imperio maximus, exemplo major est.* Nor indeed hath He yet given us, or have we yet felt any other instances of His Greatness, and Power, and Superiority, and Dominion over us, *Nisi* (as he said) *aut levatione periculi, aut accessione dignitatis*, by giving us Peace, Honor, and Security, which we could not have without Him, by desiring nothing for Himself, but what is as good for us, as for Himself; and therefore I hope we shall make no scruple of obeying Him in this particular.

My Lords and Gentlemen, Though the last Parliament did great and wonderful things indeed, as much as in that time they could, yet they have left very great things for you to do.

You

You are to finiſh the Structure, of which they but laid the Foundation; indeed they left ſome things undone, which it may be they thought they had finiſhed. You will finde the Revenue they intended to raiſe for the King, very much ſhort of what they promiſed: You will finde the Publick Debts for the diſcharge of the Army and the Navy, which they thought they had provided for ſufficiently, to be ſtill in arrear and unpaid. And here I am by the King's ſpecial command, to commend the poor Seamen to you, who by the Rules which were preſcribed for their payment, are in a much worſe condition, then, without queſtion, was foreſeen they would be; for by appointing them to be paid but from 1658. (which was a ſafe rule to the Army) very many are ſtill in arrear for two, three, or four years ſervice; and ſo His Majeſties promiſe to them from *Breda* remains unperformed. Some other loſſes, which reſulted from other Rules given for their payment, have been ſupplied to them by the King's own bounty: They are a people very worthy of your particular care and cherifhing, upon vvhoſe courage and fidelity very much of the Happineſs, and Honor, and Security of the Nation depends; and therefore His Majeſty doubts not you vvill ſee Juſtice done tovvards them vvith favor.

My Lords and Gentlemen, You are novv the great

great Physitians of the Kingdom, and God knows you have many wayward, and froward, and distempered Patients; Patients who are in truth very sick, & Patients who think themselves sicker then they are; and some who think themselves in health, and are most sick of all. You must therefore use all the diligence, and patience, and compassion, which good Physituans have for their Patients; all the Chearfulness, and Complacency, and Indulgence, their several Habits, and Constitutions, and Distempers of Body and Minde may require: Be not too Melancholick with your Patients, nor suffer them to be too Melancholick, by believing that every little distemper will presently turn to a violent Feaver, and that Feaver will presently turn to the Plague; That every little trespass, every little swarving from the known Rule, must insensibly grow to a neglect of the Law, and that neglect as insensibly introduce an absolute confusion; that every little difference, in Opinion or Practice, in Conscience or Religion, must presently destroy Conscience and Religion: Be not too severe and rough towards your Patients in prescribing Remedies, how well compounded soever, too nauseous and offensive to their stomacks and appetite, or to their very fancy; allay and correct those humors which corrupt their stomacks and their appetites: If the good old known tryed

Laws be for the preſent too heavy for their necks, which have been ſo many years without any Yoke at all, make a temporary proviſion of an eaſier and a lighter Yoke, till by living in a wholeſomer air, by the benefit of a ſoberer Converſation, by keeping a better Dyet, by the experience of a good and juſt Government, they recover ſtrength enough to bear, and diſcretion enough to diſcern the benefit and the eaſe of thoſe Laws they diſliked. If the preſent Oaths have any terms or expreſsions in them, that a tender Conſcience honeſtly makes ſcruple of ſubmitting to, in Gods name, let other Oaths be formed in their places, as comprehenſive of all thoſe Obligations which the Policy of Government muſt exact; but ſtill let there be a Yoke, let there be an Oath, let there be ſome Law that may be the Rule to that Indulgence, that under pretence of Liberty of Conſcience men may not be abſolved from all the Obligations of Law and Conſcience.

I have beſought your good nature and indulgence towards ſome of your weak Patients, if by it they can be brought to follow and ſubmit to your preſcriptions for their health; nor is it reaſonable to imagine, that the diſtempers of twenty years can be rectified and ſubdued in twelve moneths, there muſt be a natural time, and natural Applications allowed for it: But

there

there are a sort of your Patients that I must recommend to your utmost vigilance, utmost severity, and to no part of your lenity or indulgence; such who are so far from valuing your prescriptions, that they look not upon you as their Physitians, but their Patients; such who instead of repenting any thing that they have done amiss, repeat every day the same crimes, for the Indempnity whereof the Act of Oblivion was provided. These are the seditious Preachers who cannot be contented to be dispenced with for their full obedience to some Laws established, without reproaching and inveighing against those Laws how established soever; who tell their Auditories, that the Apostle meant when he bid them stand to their Liberties, that they should stand to their Arms, and who by repeating the very expressions, and teaching the very Doctrine they set on foot in the year 1640. sufficiently declare, that they have no minde that twenty years should put an end to the miseries we have undergone.

What good Christian can think without horror of these Ministers of the Gospel, who by their Function should be Messengers of Peace, and are in their practice the onely Trumpets of War and Incendiaries towards Rebellion? How much more Christian was that *Athenian* Nun in *Plutarch*, & how shall shee rise up in Judgment against

againſt theſe men, who when *Alcibiades* was condemned by the Publick juſtice of the State, and a Decree made, that the Religious, the Prieſts and the Nuns ſhould revile and curſe him, ſtoutly refuſed to perform that Office, ſaying, that ſhe was profeſſed Religious, to pray and to bleſs, not to curſe and ban. And if the Perſon and the Place can improve and aggravate the Offence, as no doubt it doth, both before God and man, methinks the Preaching Rebellion and Treaſon out of the Pulpit, ſhould be as much worſe then the advancing it in the Market, as poyſoning a man at the Communion would be worſe then killing him at a Tavern; And it may be in the Catalogue of thoſe ſins which the zeal of ſome men declares to be againſt the Holy Ghoſt, there may not be any one more reaſonably thought to be ſuch, then a Miniſter of Chriſt's turning Rebel againſt his Prince, which is a moſt notorious Apoſtacy from his Order, and his preaching Rebellion to the People as the Doctrine of Chriſt, adding Blaſphemy and Pertinacie to his Apoſtacie, hath all the marks by which good men are taught to know and avoid that Sin againſt the Holy Ghoſt: If you do not provide for the thorow quenching theſe Fire-brands, King, Lords and Commons ſhall be their meaneſt Subjects, and the whole Kingdom kindled into one general Flame.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

When the King ſpake laſt in this place before this day, he ſaid, When He ſhould call the next Parliament, he ſhould receive their thanks for what he had done ſince he had diſſolved the laſt; for he ſaid he ſhould not more propoſe any one rule to himſelf in his Actions or his Councels, then this: *What is a Parliament like to think of this Action, or of that Counſel? and that it ſhould be want of underſtanding in him, if it would not bear that teſt:* He told you but now, That he values himſelf much upon keeping his Word, upon performing all that he promiſes to his People; and he hath the worſt luck in the world, if he hath not complied with this promiſe, and if his underſtanding hath failed him in it. It was in a very little time after the diſſolution of that Parliament, His Majeſty giving himſelf a few days to accompany his Royal Mother to the Sea-ſide, (the onely time he hath ſlept out of this Town near this Twelvemoneth,) that the moſt deſperate and prodigious Rebellion brake out in this City, that hath been heard of in any age, which continued two or three nights together, with the Murder of ſeveral honeſt Citizens; let no man undervalue the Treaſon becauſe of the contemptibleneſs of the number ingaged in it; no man knows the number, but by the multitude of intercepted Letters

from and to all the Counties of *England*, in which the time was set down wherein the work of the Lord was to be done, by the desperate carriage of the Traytors themselves, and their bragging of their friends, we may conclude the combination reached very far, and in truth we may reasonably believe, that if the undaunted courage, and indefatigable industry of the Lord Mayor of *London*, who deserves to be mentioned before King, Lords and Commons, and to be esteemed by them, had not prevented it: I say, it is probable this fury would not have been extinguished, before this famous City, or a great part of it had been burned to ashes. If you enquire what the King did upon this unheard of provocation, what vengeance he took upon those whose professed and avowed principle was, not to distinguish between him and another man, nay to kill him sooner then any other man, you will finde, as was said of *Cæsar*, that *Libentius vitam victor jam dabat, quam victi acciperent*, That his mercy hath been no less obstinate, then their malice and wickedness, that few persons have suffered, and that he hath restrained the Law from being severe to many, who at the same time continue their guilt, and undervalue his compassion; That there hath not been a week since that time, in which there have not beene Combinations

tions and Conſpiracies formed againſt His Perſon, and againſt the Peace of the Kingdom, which before this time would have taken effect, if God had not put it into the hearts of ſome who were truſted in the Counſels, to diſcover the deſigns time enough for prevention, and upon all theſe Alarms, and the interception of ſuch Letters, as would in all other Countries have produced the Rack for further diſcoveries, and under the late Government in this, would have erected High Courts of Juſtice for their puniſhment, he hath left the Offenders to his Judges of the Law, and thoſe Judges to the preciſe forms, and ordinary rules of the Law.

My Lords and Gentlemen, If the new licence and corruption of this time hath exceeded the wickedneſſe of former Ages, that the old Laws have not enough provided for the puniſhment of wickedneſſe, they could not foreſee or imagine, it will become your Wiſdoms to provide new remedies for new diſeaſes, and to ſecure the precious Perſon of our Dear Soveraign, from the firſt approaches of Villany, and the Peace of the Kingdom from the firſt overtures of Sedition. If you will not provide Laws to do it, the King will not do any thing extraordinary even towards his own preſervation.

You ſee the Rule by which he hath walked,

and as he hath made good his promiſe to you, ſo I doubt not you will make good his Prophecy, and that he ſhall receive thanks for what he hath done ſince he was laſt here. He hath told you now what he hath done, That he is reſolved to Marry, and reſolved whom to Marry; which, I believe, is the moſt grateful news that the whole Kingdom hath longed for, or could receive from the firſt day of his landing here; and when they ſhall know the great deliberation he hath uſed before that Reſolution, and the circumſtances in reſolving it, they will ſurely have cauſe to confeſs, that never King in the diſpoſal of himſelf in Marriage, took ſo great care for the good and felicity of his People. Within a very ſhort time after his landing in this Kingdom, he was moved by the Ambaſſador of *Portugal* to renew a Treaty, lately made between that Crown and the Uſurper; a Treaty in very many reſpects the moſt advantageous to this Nation, that ever was entered into with any Prince or People; a Treaty by which, at this time, that Crown is paying the Penalty (which the Uſurper exacted from it) for the moſt Heroick and noble act of Honour and Friendſhip performed by that King to our Maſter, that ever was performed by any Prince towards another Prince in diſtreſs; And yet the King was nothing forward to ratifie this Treaty, though it

is very true, every Article in it, but one, was entirely for the benefit of this Nation, for the extraordinary advancement of Trade, for the good of Religion, and for the honour of the Crown; yet there was One, One ſingle Article that muſt oblige the King, as it did oblige the Uſurper, to ſupply *Portugal* with an Army for his aſsiſtance when he ſhould require it; that is, That *Portugal* ſhould have power to make Levies of ten thouſand men for their ſervice: this the King fore-ſaw might produce a War with *Spain*, which he was very unwilling to undergo that Engagement; and yet his Council repreſented unto him how heart-breaking a thing it would be to his people to loſe the poſſeſsion of ſo great a Trade, and thoſe other immenſe Advantages they had by that Treaty; and that would be judged an irrecoverable Errour in Policy, if *Portugal* ſhould be ſuffered again to be ſwallowed up by *Spain*. However, the King was reſolved not precipitately to engage himſelf in ſuch a Treaty as might be attended with ſuch an inconvenience, but to take time fully to conſider of it; and this Delay the Portugal could not be pleaſed with, and ſo the Ambaſſadour returned home to his Maſter.

About this time the House of Commons sent up a Bill to the Lords for the annexing *Dunkirk* and *Jamaica* to the Crown of *England*; which seemed to have the most universal consent and approbation from the whole Nation, that ever any Bill could be attended with; yet the same consideration which retarded the Treaty with *Portugal*, made the King less warm towards the advancing of that Bill: and the Spanish Ambassadour was as solliciteous to obstruct it, as he hath been since to obstruct the Match with *Portugal*. This being the Case, and the *Portugal* Ambassadour returning with such particular Overtures to the King for a Marriage with the Daughter of that Crown, that both in respect of Portion, and many other transcendent Advantages for the advancement of the Trade and Empire of this Kingdom, the like hath not been offered in this Age: and his Majesty having received as full information and satisfaction in the beauty and excellency of that renowned Princess, as can be had without a personal Interview, (a Circumstance very rarely admitted to Princes) it was not in his Majesties power to be without some approbation and inclination to this Allyance: yet even then he would not trust himself in this great Affair,

which

which so nearly and so dearly concerns himself, and himself above all others; though the benefit and advantage could but appear the same upon further Consultation, yet there might possibly be some mischiefs, or some inconveniences discerned which he had not fore-seen: He resolves therefore to call his Council, tells them some days before, that he had an Affair of great importance to impart to them, and to receive their advice in; and therefore appointed an extraordinary day, that they might all appear, (and truly, I think there was but one Lord absent, who was then indispos'd in his health:) in this Council he stated the whole Matter, all that was offered of benefit and advantage, all that occurr'd of hazard or inconvenience, without the least discovery of his own inclinations further then that you would have believed he had seen the picture of his Mistriss, it having been a speech he hath often accustomed himself to, That he would not marry a Woman he had not some reason to believe he could love, though she could bring him the Empire of the World. He did not conceal from my Lords what the Spanish Ambassadour had offered against this Marriage, (who is not over-reserved in giving Counsel, nor in communicating the Counsel he gives) what profers

he

he had made of others, what Threats of War in one caſe, what Advantage of Dowry in another; that he is ſo ſollicitous for the advancement of the Proteſtant Religion, that he had offered ſeveral Proteſtant Princeſſes to whom his Maſter ſhall give a Portion, as with the INFANTA of *Spain*: and truly leſs then the Univerſal Monarch could not diſpoſe of ſo many Princeſſes, without the leaſt Conſent or Privity of their own. His Majeſtie commanded all my Lords to deliver their Counſel and Advice freely, upon a full Proſpect of what might appear Good and Happie for His People, as well as for Himſelf: aſſuring them, as He hath done you now this day, That as He never did, ſo He never will do any thing of great importance without conſulting with them. You will believe that my Lords of the Counſil are ſollicitous enough for the advancement of the Proteſtant Religion, upon which the welfare of this Kingdom ſo much depends: but they were very apprehenſive that the firſt Proteſtant Daughter that ever any King of *Spain* had, would not probably bring ſo great Advantages to it, as was pretended:

They

They have no minde to encourage the King to a War; we have had War enough; but they do not think He should so much fear a War, as out of the dread of it not be at the disposal of any other Prince; and that when He hath freed His own Subjects from War, ships, and from Liveries, that He should himself become a Ward to the King of *Spain*, and not marry without his Approbation and Consent. They observed, that in the last Memorials (I do not mean that which he last Printed, but a former) in which the Spanish Ambassador threatens War, if the King marries with *Portugal*, he presseth very earnestly the delivering up of *Dunkirk* and *Jamaica*; and it is plain enough he would have had no Peace for the portion he would give; and in truth, whoever is against the match with *Portugal*, is for the delivery of *Dunkirk* and *Jamaica*, a War being absolutely to follow from the latter, as from the former, and from neither, till the King of *Spain* finds it convenient for himself, which I hope he will not yet do. I will not inlarge upon the many Reasons, the King hath told you the conclusion: There was never a more unanimous Advice from any Council, not one dissenting voice in the beseeching His Majesty to make this marriage, and to finish it with all the expedition imaginable. Upon this He sent for the *Portugal* Ambassador, declared

His resolution to him, hath writ Himself to *Portugal*, and is preparing His Fleet to fetch home your Queen. And I hope now He hath deserved all your thanks, both for the Matter and the Manner; and that not only ourselves, but the Ages that are to succeed us, shall have cause to bless God and His Majesty for this resolution that He hath taken, and that He hath declared to us this day, and hath reserved for this day, having obliged His Council to secrecy, that He might Himself communicate it to His whole Kingdom at once.

There are some other particulars of weight, but He will not mingle them with this great important one, which must so much fill your hearts and your heads, but will reserve them till he sees you again, after you have chosen your *Speaker*, which he now leaves you to do, and to repair to your House for that purpose, that you may present your *Speaker* unto Him at four of the clock upon Friday.

FINIS.